

REMARKS

Please cancel Claims 4, 7 and 18 without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-17 and 19-28 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11-14, 16, 17 and 21 are amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-17 and 19-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho (U.S. Patent No. 6,407,757). Applicant has reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submits that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-17 and 19-28 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Ho.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-10

Independent Claim 1 recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed a computer system that includes “a user interface coupled to said bus and for controlling said display, said user interface comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material fastened to each other along a single edge in a stack, wherein along other edges of said stack said layers are not fastened to each other; wherein the amount of bending of a flexible layer is measured, wherein said bending causes said display to change in a prescribed manner and wherein said change to said display is according to the measured amount of deflection of said flexible layer” (emphasis added). Claims 2-3, 5, 6 and 8-10 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite additional limitations.

The Examiner has cited Figure 13A and column 32, lines 55-56, of Ho as teaching bending of material and changing an amount of deflection according to the amount of deflection. Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited portions of

Ho only pertain to the display of a rendered “book” and not to flexible layers of material as cited in independent Claim 1.

Applicant understands Figures 15A, 15B and 15C of Ho to show flexible layers of material that can bend. Ho appears to teach that a user’s thumb can apply a force that bends the flexible layers, and the bending of the flexible layers is then sensed. Ho only teaches that the position of the user’s thumb on the flexible layers effects what is displayed. Importantly, Ho does not show or suggest measuring the amount of bending, as recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, nowhere in Ho is there a showing or suggestion that a display is changed depending on the measured amount of deflection, also as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, and that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 2-3, 5, 6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations.

Claims 11-17, 19 and 20

Independent Claim 11 recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed a method that includes “changing said display according to the rate of movement of said flexible layers” (emphasis added). Claims 12-17, 19 and 20 are dependent on Claim 11 and recite additional limitations.

The Examiner has cited column 2, lines 37-42, of Ho as disclosing flipping through pages at various speeds. The present claimed invention pertains to the translation of the movement of flexible layers of material into a change to a display on an electronic display device. Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited portions of Ho only pertain to the flipping of pages in a conventional book, and that flipping pages of a conventional book does not translate into a change in a display on an electronic display device. More importantly, neither the cited portion of Ho, nor Ho in its entirety, show or suggest that a display is changed depending on the rate at which the flexible layers are moved, as recited in Claim 11.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, and that Claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 12-17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations.

Claims 21-28

Independent Claim 21 recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed a computer system that includes “a housing” and “a user interface coupled to said bus and for controlling said display, said user interface comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material fastened to each other along an edge in a stack, wherein said stack is fastened to said housing along said edge” (emphasis added). Claims 22-28 are dependent on Claim 21 and recite additional limitations.

The instant Office Action does not cite a portion of Ho as teaching the specific limitation recited above. Applicants respectfully submit that Ho does not show or suggest flexible layers that are fastened to each other along an edge in a stack, where the edge of the stack is coupled to the housing of a computer system. Applicant understands Figures 15A, 15B and 15C of Ho to show a stack of flexible layers of material. However, Ho does not show that the stack is coupled along its edge to the housing of a computer system. Figure 2C of Ho shows a browsing device coupled to the outside of a screen 216. Significantly, in column 18, lines 9-15, Ho states "This is achieved by attaching these devices [the browsing devices] to a frame 215, and then attaching the frame 215 to the screen 216. This is done because the browsing devices 100 and 101 need to be firmly attached and we would like to use existing computer screens 216 and hardware with no necessity of any physical modifications to them" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully asserts that, even if the browsing devices 100 and 101 include flexible layers of material, quite clearly Ho does not show or suggest fastening flexible layers to each other along one edge and fastening that edge to a housing, as recited in Claim 21.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, and that Claim 21 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations.

Conclusions

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims.

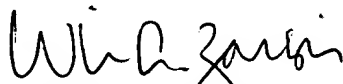
Based on the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-17 and 19-28 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims.

Applicant has reviewed the references cited but not relied upon. Applicant did not find these references to show or suggest the present claimed invention: U.S. Patent Nos. 4,221,975, 6,127,908 and 6,618,034.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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